Assessment Workgroup minutes
6-27-07

Atendees; Hiren Desai – KDE, Roger Ervin – KDE,  Deb Moore – UK, Joe Morgan - OCTE, Sherri Noxel- CPE, Bob Rodosky – Jefferson Co PS

The group spent a great deal of time determining if it was to produce a list of assessment applications (brand names) or desired assessment application attributes. The group decided it would be more productive to focus on current and desired attributes of assessment applications, while providing some brand names as examples.

Some examples of desired attributes are:
➢ Student record level data collection and warehousing in a single location with cross agency access
➢ System maintenance and upgrades should be included in the adoption of any application
➢ Infrastructure with the ability to handle high volume interaction and capture individual student progress on assessments so students can continue the assessment process in the event of system failure. The current infrastructure necessitates locating the assessment server within the local district for K-12 to maintain performance for high levels of network traffic. This issue would also hinder the desired data warehousing configuration.
➢ Compliance with SIF standards , see http://www.sifinfo.org/
➢ Rapid reporting of student progress, performance diagnosis and feedback to the student.
➢ Standardized application tool sets, i.e. calculator, spell check, etc.

The future of KEN should include infrastructure to handle virtual processes, including interactive assessment applications. Examples: Science and Industrial processes

Bandwidth was an often repeated concern for being able to utilize desired applications. Not all districts or schools have equal access to bandwidth. The result is reduced functionality during peak assessment or other application periods. The group may suggest establishing a minimum bandwidth standard for schools or districts based on student numbers or other criteria.
The bandwidth concern was supported by Bo Lowrey of JCPS via e-mail. Although KEN is increasing bandwidth to the district, it does not increase the bandwidth within the district. Moving all state assessments to online delivery should produce a savings to the state from reduced time, postage, travel and printing cost. However, Keith Parsons, Principal – Russell ATC pointed out via e-mail; the local level infrastructure is not capable of handling the high volume of network traffic during statewide testing windows. A temporary solution may be to expand the testing window.

At best, the current state of the bandwidth may support electronic versions of traditional assessment methods. However, it is not viewed as being capable of supporting desired audio, video, virtual processes, or high volume data transfer, storage and retrieval.

Roger stated he would e-mail Joe a copy of the projects KDE had identified as part of their budget projections through 2011.

Bob was going to check with Educational IT professionals who have completed similar work in other states to see how they handled similar technical and application issues.

Sherri and Deb were going to forward existing post-secondary assessment application examples and desired features.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 11th at 1:30, location TBA.